

REMARKS

Claims 13-21 are pending in this application. Claims 1-12 were cancelled previously. Claims 13-18 have been amended to even further clarify the claimed subject matter. New claims 19-21 have been added. Claims 13, 18, and 20 are the only independent claims.

The Examiner objected to Claims 13-18 for various informalities, including improper dependencies in those claims. Those claims have been carefully reviewed and amended as deemed necessary to overcome the objection, with special attention given to the relevant comments in the Office Action. Applicant believes that these amendments overcome the objection, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection.

Claims 13-16 and 18 have been rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 of U.S. Patent No. 6,707,880 B2 (*Yamayoshi*), the parent of the present application. Claim 17 has been rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claim 1 of *Yamayoshi* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,001,735 (*Sammon*).

Claim 13 has been amended, *inter alia*, to incorporate the recitation of “lamps for indicating a state of said plurality of sensor units.” For example, as now amended, Claim 13 recites:

“13. (Currently Amended) An image sensing system comprising:
a plurality of sensor units, each of which is adapted for converting a radiation ray into an electrical signal;

at least one selection unit, according to a user input to select a selected sensor unit from said plurality of sensor units, for sending a signal assigning the selected sensor unit;
a control unit for monitoring the signal assigning the selected sensor unit; and
lamps for indicating a state of said plurality of sensor units, wherein said control unit sends a command to the selected sensor unit to set the selected sensor unit in a ready state and a command to each other sensor unit to set the other sensor units in a sleep state.”¹

Applicant respectfully submits that none of the claims of *Yamayoshi* recites or suggests lamps for indicating a state of sensor units, as recited in Claim 13.

Accordingly, Claim 13 is deemed clearly patentably distinguishable from the claims of *Yamayoshi*.

Claims 14-17 and 19 depend from Claim 13 and as such also incorporate the subject matter of lamps for indicating a state of sensor units. Accordingly, Claims 14-17 and 19 are believed to be patentable over the mentioned claims of *Yamayoshi* for the same reasons as is Claim 13.

Added independent Claim 20 also recites lamps for indicating a state of sensor units, and also is believed to be clearly patentable over Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 of *Yamayoshi* for the same reasons as those set forth above.

Added Claim 21 depends from Claim 20, and also is believed patentable over those claims of *Yamayoshi*, at least for the reason that Claim 21 depends from a patentable base claim.

^{1/} Support for the limitation of lamps for indicating a state of sensor units can be found in the specification at least from page 7, line 25 to page 8, line 2.

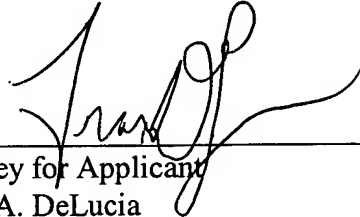
Applicant also respectfully submits that each double patenting rejection, including that of Claim 18, should be withdrawn in view of the following comments. To the extent that the double-patenting rejections over *Yamayoshi* are based merely on the assertion that the present application and that from which *Yamayoshi* issued have common disclosure, the rejections, frankly, are not understood. As is set out in MPEP § 804, the basis for double-patenting rejections where the rejected claim is not identical in scope to a claim in the patent, is that the rejection is necessary to prevent improper *time-wise* extension of patent protection. Since both *Yamayoshi* and any patent that issues from the present application will expire on April 21, 2020, it is not seen how there can be any improper time-wise extension. Accordingly, if the Examiner repeats such rejections, he is respectfully requested to explain in detail how such improper time-wise extension would arise.

A review of *Sammon* has not revealed anything which, in Applicant's view, would remedy the above-noted deficiencies of *Yamayoshi* as a reference against the claims herein. Accordingly, those claims are believed to be patentable over both the subject matter of *Yamayoshi* relied on in the Office Action and *Sammon*.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of this application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank A. DeLucia', is written over a horizontal line.

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